

ALLEGAN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

112 WALNUT STREET • ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN 49710-1750

2:48 PM '94

David Haverdink
Sheriff

Larry Ladenburger
Undersheriff

August 5, 1994

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that the Allegan County Jail has used an inmate phone system for outgoing calls for many many years, even prior to being able to select our own local and long distance company and equipment provider. Once the law was changed and we were allowed to do so, we've noticed an improvement in the quality of the equipment provided for use by the inmates, the reduction of fraud committed by the inmates, the amount of interaction my staff has to have with the inmate phone system, and last but not least, we began to generate some revenue for the county from the usage of the phones by the inmates. We currently select a provider by, not only the commission the county can receive, but also the quality of equipment, the repair time, and the ability of the company to stop inmate fraud. We also do everything within our power to ensure that a fair and equitable rate is charged for the long distance service. Any issues related to the cost of the inmate or their family are immediately addressed with the provider and the inmates are also advised that the calls are collect only and that the cost is higher than if they would be calling from their residence, so that they can adjust their calling if they wish to reduce the cost to their friends and family.

The Allegan County Jail would be extremely dissatisfied with any regulation that would restrict our selection of a provider of phones and service for the inmates. We believe that we would see an increase in the fraud perpetrated by the users of the phones, increase in the damage to the equipment, increased interaction of my staff with the phone equipment and ultimately a reduction of the phones or the access to phones by the inmates.

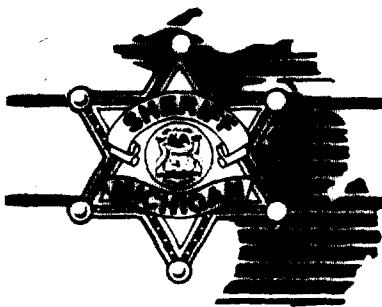
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To protect and serve the people of Allegan County

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Administrative 673-5444
Central Dispatch 673-3899

Civil Process 673-5445
Detective Bureau 673-8110
Jail Administration 673-5548
Fax 673-8100

Jail Inmate Info 673-7353
Patrol Division 673-5447
Youth Services 673-8110



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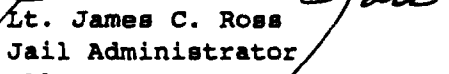
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I believe that if the FCC wishes to regulate the inmate phone industry, because of real or perceived problems with their billing for the service, it would be better to set some regulation on the amount that can be charged for the service and still allow jails and correction facilities to select their own provider, maintaining control over the phone system, the options that they wish to have in their phone system, and the possibility for some revenue to be generated for the facility.

In the end, I believe all correctional facilities and jails, wish to have a phone system which provides the security against fraud and control over who the inmates can call, it's equipment that is almost indestructible and which reduces the amount of time the staff has to deal with the phone system. They also would like to see that some of the monies generated by these phone companies, be shared with the facilities that allow them to have access to their inmate population. By doing so, that helps offset the cost of the operation to the citizens of the county or state where the facility is maintained, therefore we would be against having this proposal become a requirement, thereby eliminating the inmate phone system as we currently have it.

Sincerely,


Lt. James C. Ross
Jail Administrator
Allegan County Sheriff's Dept.

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barret
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness
Senator Donald W. Reigle Jr.
Representative Peter Hoekstra
Sheriff David Haverdink

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